

FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1995

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*Corrected under
7-3-95*

WEATHER

March began with nine cold days, often below zero, and then was warm, with average monthly temperature 2.2 degrees above normal. Precipitation was above normal in the northwest and below normal in the southeast.

April was unusually cool and wet, with average temperature 4.0 degrees below normal and precipitation 1.7 inches above normal. The greatest rainfall was in the southeast, where planting was delayed. A snow storm hit northern Iowa, especially northwestern Iowa, on the 10th.

May was also cool and wet, with average temperature 3.1 degrees below normal and precipitation 2.0 inches above normal. The 84 degree temperature at Waterloo on the 16th was a rare day in the 80s this year, but the lowest high temperature for May on record. The heavy rainfall delayed planting in many areas, especially the southeast.

GENERAL TRENDS

The movement of waterfowl in March was relatively normal compared to the delayed movements of shorebirds and passerines in April and May. Noteworthy examples of the latter were the occurrence of Marbled Godwits and Solitary Vireos in late May. Shorebird habitat was good early in the season, but the heavy rains later flooded many of the areas with good mud flats. The passerine migration was generally delayed, but later weather fronts produced better concentrations than in the last few years.

The weather produced some large concentrations of birds. On 12 April, in extreme northwestern Iowa following a snow storm that covered the ground, an interesting mix of migrants flocked along the paved roads where the snow had melted. These included American Robin, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Vesper Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur, as well as the sought after Chestnut-collared Longspur. On 13 May, there was a widespread fallout of migrant passerines that can be attributed to the generally delayed early migration, a strong weather front, and the Spring Day Count that brought out many birders. On 28 May at A. A. Call S.P., a more isolated fallout was associated with a more selective involvement of species, predominately Yellow-bellied and Least Flycatchers and Red-eyed Vireos. Other observers also noted the good migrant traps for passerines in northwestern Iowa in late May.

Species that appeared in greater than usual numbers include Pied-billed Grebe, Trumpeter Swan (which ones are wild?), Cinnamon Teal, Northern Harrier, Black Tern, empidonax flycatchers (they were all over in late May), Cape May Warbler, and Great-tailed Grackle. Species were notable for their scarcity include: Little Blue Heron (no reports received), Western Grebe (1 report), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (no reports), Yellow Rail (no reports), American Avocet (few reports), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (no reports), Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos (very few), Purple Finch (a few singles), and Pine Siskin (very few).

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported were Glossy Ibis, Common Eider, Mississippi Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Ruff, Laughing Gull, Fish Crow, Mountain Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Casual species reported were Red-throated Loon, White-faced Ibis, Whimbrel, Bewick's Wren, Townsend's Solitaire, Pine Grosbeak, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. It should be noted that the status of some of these species will be changing shortly.

Other rare birds of note include Northern Goshawk, Prairie Falcon, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, and Prairie Warbler.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented, [] = record dates)

Red-throated Loon: 1 in basic plumage was at Little Wall L. in Hamilton Co. from 22 to 24 Apr (*MPr, *BPr, *RRW, *JP, *THK).

Common Loon: First: 25 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last: 31 May at Mason City (RGo) and at Cardinal M. (DeC). High count: 21 on 28 Mar at Rathbun Res. (SJD). Other late birds were at Black Hawk L. on 23 May (JLF) and Swan L. in Carroll Co. on 29 May (RTh).

Pied-billed Grebe: First: 10 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). High count: 282 on 12 Apr at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Other observers noted the large numbers at L. Manawa from 31 Mar to 13 Apr (SJD, THK). Another high count was 120 on 23 Apr at Pleasant Creek L. (CE).

Horned Grebe: First: 8 on 19 Mar at Cone M. (DCP). Last: 16 May at East Twin L. in Hancock Co. (SJD). High count: 16 on 25 Mar at Rathbun Res. (RLC). This species was reported from 14 other locations in all parts of the state.

Red-necked Grebe: All: 1 in basic plumage on 28 Mar at Rathbun Res. (SJD)[2nd earliest]; 18 Apr at Otter Creek M. (THK); 22 Apr at Little Wall L. (MPr); 23 Apr at Pleasant Creek L. (CE); 5 May at Anderson L. (JSi); and 13, 23 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK, THK, JLF).

Eared Grebe: First: 19 Mar at Cone M. (DCP). High count: 14 on 23 Apr at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Others were reported from 17 locations including 6 in eastern Iowa.

Western Grebe: The only report was from 17 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

American White Pelican: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (THK) and Ottumwa (AMJ). High count: 1,000 on 6 Apr at Cone M. (PCP). Pelicans were everywhere, with many in eastern Iowa where they were not common only a few years ago. A few lingered to late May at many locations (THK).

Double-crested Cormorant: First: 25 Mar at Brown's L. (BFH) and L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). High counts: 1,000 on 22 Apr at Mud L. in Clay Co. (LAS); 950 at Coralville Res. on 20 Apr (CE).

American Bittern: First: 7 Apr at Zirbel Sl. (CJF). There were 10 other reports from 8 locations.

Least Bittern: All: 21 May at Tomahawk M. (JLF, THK); 23 May at Stateline M. (JLF, THK); and 29 May at Errington M. in Polk Co. (BEn).

Great Blue Heron: 40 nests (not all occupied) were counted at Rice L. on 4 Apr (CJF).

Great Egret: First: 28 Mar at L. Sugema in Van Buren Co. (SJD) and at Spirit L. (DHe). High count: 45 on 23 Apr at Otter Creek M. (CE).

Snowy Egret: All: 16 Apr at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH); 11 May at Blue L. (PE); and 31 May in SW Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP).

Cattle Egret: First: 10 on 15 Apr at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 40 on 27 May in SW Fremont Co. (THK). There were reports from 9 other locations.

Green Heron: First: 22 Apr at Cone M. (AMJ).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: First: 13 Apr at Blue L. (THK). High count: 45 on 23 Apr at Otter Creek M. (CE).

Glossy Ibis: 2 were at Riverton A. on 18 May (*THK-photos, *JLF, *BKP/LJP), and 1 was there on 22 May (*WRS).

White-faced Ibis: In Fremont Co., 1 was at Riverton A. on 15 Apr (BKP/LJP)[record earliest]; 1-2 were at Riverton on 18-19 May (THK, JLF, BKP/LJP); and 1 was near Nebraska City on 31 May (THK). At Blue L., 7 were seen on 21 Apr (PE)[2nd earliest], 12 on 23 Apr (BFH), 9 on 25 Apr (*THK-photos), and 8 were still there on 11 May (SJD). Other reports were of 5 at Harrier M. in Boone Co. on 5 May (Laura Myers, Scott Peterson fide JJD) and 1 in NW Warren Co. on 14 May (*JSi). An unidentified ibis was at Black Hawk M. in Sac Co. on 1 May (Mike Mahn fide SJD).

Tundra Swan: First: 10 Mar at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). Other reports, all in March, were from Buena Vista, Guthrie, Story, and Winneshiek counties.

Trumpeter Swan: Birds were reported from 11 locations, but some of these are sites where birds have been introduced such as Bays Branch W.A., Kettleon Hogsback A., sw of Webster City, and Mason City. Birds from known locations included 1 with yellow neck collar (80KN) from Wisconsin at Big Creek L. on 7, 11 Mar (SJD, MPr), 3 with neck collars from Minnesota at Bays Branch W.A. on 10 Mar (SJD), and 1 with orange patagial tag from Minnesota at L. Pahoja on 20 Mar (Mart Eby fide SJD). Apparently unmarked birds were reported from Mason City, Clear L., McCord's Pond, and Long Pond. The 2 birds that wintered at Black Hawk L. left on 12 Mar (RTh).

Mute Swan: A wintering first-year bird was still sw of Webster City on 15 Apr (MPr). A bird found at Hawarden on 17 Mar may have been the same bird that was at Rock Valley until 19 Apr (JV). An adult was in NW Marshall Co. on 21 Mar and 17 May (MPr). On 21 May, 3 adults were at Amana L. (DLD).

Greater White-fronted Goose: First: 10 on 4 Mar at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 25 Apr with 10 at Riverton A. (THK) and 34 at Dunbar Sl. (RTh). High count: 200 on 11 Mar at Runnells A. (JSi).

Snow Goose: High count: 50,000 on 15 Mar at Hamburg (BKP/LJP). Lingered birds were seen in late May at Riverton A., Port Neal, Big Creek L., and Union Slough N.W.R.

Ross's Goose: A wintering bird remained sw of Webster City until 15 Apr (MPr). Last: 4 May at Ingham L. (DHe). High count: 65 on 18 Mar at Willow Sl. (SJD). Birds were reported from 10 locations.

Canada Goose: High count: 5,300 on 11 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Green-winged Teal: High count: 3,000 at Riverton A. on 19 Mar (THK).

American Black Duck: 1 to 3 birds found by one observe at 7 central and western Iowa locations were considered more than usual (SJD).

Northern Pintail: High count: 1,709 on 11 Mar at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Blue-winged Teal: First: 11 Mar at Cone M. (CE).

Cinnamon Teal: All (males): 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD); 20 Mar to 16 Apr at Runnells A. (JSi); 25 to 26 Mar at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH); 2 to 6 Apr at Carroll (MTh, RTh); 3 Apr at Ames (Mike Meetz fide SJD); 8 Apr at Rathbun Res. (SJD); and 22 Apr in Palo Alto Co. (LAS, HWW). A hybrid was reported at Blue L. on 24 Apr (BFH).

Northern Shoveler: High count: 565 on 5 Apr at Terra L. in Johnston (BE).

Gadwall: High count: 150 on 22 Apr at Dewey's Pasture (LAS).

American Wigeon: High count: 58 on 2 Apr at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Canvasback: High count: 3,000 in late Mar at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Redhead: High count: 50 on 2 Apr at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Greater Scaup: First: 3 on 11 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last: 11 May at Pool 13 in Clinton Co. (PCP). High count: 5 on 2 Apr at Pleasant Creek L. (CE). There were reports from 5 other locations.

Common Eider: The female reported this winter from Red Rock Res. was last noted on 7 Apr (LAS). A female, perhaps the same one, was reported at Saylorville Res. on 26 Mar (*AMJ).

Oldsquaw: All: 18 Mar (BE) and 2 Apr (Gordon Brown fide SJD) at Saylorville Res.; 26 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. (*JQ); and 29 Apr at Cone M. (THK).

Common Goldeneye: High count: 400 on 11 Mar at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Bufflehead: High count: 40 at Carlisle on 5 Apr (JSi) and at Amana L. on 24 Apr (CE). Bill Huser came close with 39 at Port Neal on 2 Apr.

Hooded Merganser: High count: 25 at Davenport on 2 Mar (PCP).

Common Merganser: High count: 2,000 on 1 Mar at Red Rock Res. (THK).

Red-breasted Merganser: First: 14 Mar at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last: 29 May at Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 150 on 1 Apr at L. Macbride (CE).

Ruddy Duck: First: 12 Mar at Port Neal (BFH). High count: 831 on 31 Mar at L. Manawa (SJD).

Turkey Vulture: First: 11 Mar in Lee Co. (RLC).

Osprey: First: 27 Mar at L. Macbride (JDa). Last: 18 May in Ringgold Co. (THK).

Mississippi Kite: A pair, first found on 12 May by Jane Clark, returned to the Des Moines area at Windsor Heights not far from the location in Clive where birds have been in recent years (*PHA/RIA, THK-photo, *CE).

Bald Eagle: High count: 64 at Coralville Res. on 4 Mar (CE). A nest was found in Sac Co. (MTh, RTh).

Northern Harrier: Although difficult to substantiate from the data submitted, this species appeared more common than unusual (THK). Late May sightings that suggest nesting were reported from Dickinson, Palo Alto, Kossuth, and Johnson counties.

Cooper's Hawk: A nest was found in Warren Co. on 16 Apr (JSi).

Northern Goshawk: 1 was seen in Lucas Co. on 11 Mar (AMJ).

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were reports from Benton, Cerro Gordo, Clay, Fremont, Johnson, Kossuth, Scott, and Warren counties from 11 Mar to 29 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: High count: 40 on 29 Apr at Carroll (RTh).

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Swainson's Hawk: First: 13 Apr in Mills and Fremont counties (THK, BKP/LJP). High count: 8 on 13 and 22 Apr in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP, JSi). A pair were nesting s. of Allendorf in Osceola Co. for the 18th year in a row (DBi). Other reports were from Butler, Plymouth, and Story counties.

Red-tailed Hawk: The Padelfords counted 413 in 2.75 hours at Waubonsie S.P. on 15 Mar. The highest number that they have had for an entire day at their fall hawkwatch is 80.

Ferruginous Hawk: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Rough-legged Hawk: Last: 1 May e. of Tama (MPr).

Golden Eagle: An immature was in SW Fremont Co. on 15 Apr (BKP/LJP-details).

American Kestrel: This species has become so common that no one reports it anymore.

Merlin: First: 14 Mar w. of Riverton (SJD). Last: 21 May at Tomahawk M. (JLF, THK)[record latest]. Another late bird was at Union Slough N.W.R on 17 May (MCK)[3rd latest]. Other reports include 3 from March, 4 from April, and 2 from May.

Peregrine Falcon: First: 30 Mar at Cedar Rapids (JLF) and 31 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 29 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Other reports include 4 from April and 7 from May.

Prairie Falcon: All: 3 Mar in E Pottawattamie Co. (*THK, JLF); 5 Mar in Jasper Co. (BFH); 14 Mar in SW Fremont Co. (SJD); 16 Apr in Guthrie Co. (*RRW); and 19 Apr in NW Woodbury Co. (BFH). The dark axillaries were seen on all birds.

Gray Partridge: There were reports from 14 counties. All were north of I-80 except for birds in Johnson (JLF) and Fremont (*SM) counties. The opinions of two northwest Iowa birders may both be correct: "hard to find" (DBi) and "more numerous than in the past few years" (DCH).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: Birders should be aware that 69 were released in Monona Co. (Ed Weiner fide JJD).

Northern Bobwhite: Unusual was 1 in a yard in Sioux Center (JV).

Virginia Rail: First: 22 Apr at Dewey's Pasture (JJD). Others were reported from 6 locations.

Sora: First: 4 Apr at Errington M. (SJD). On 26 Apr, 1 perched on a window ledge in Cedar Rapids during a heavy rain (DLD).

Common Moorhen: All: 22 Apr, 7 May at Blue L. (BFH); 11 May at Green Is. (PCP); 11 May at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (PCP); 11, 24 May at Anderson L. (PHA/RIA, THK, JLF); 13 May at Fish Farms Ponds in Allamakee Co. (FL), 13 May at Cone M. (PCP); and 29 May in Dickinson Co. (ETh).

American Coot: First: 2 Mar at Blue L. (THK). High count: 5,000 in W Woodbury Co. on 26 Mar (BFH), in SW Iowa on 28 Mar (THK), and in NW Iowa on 11 Apr (THK). Coots are always common, but they were particularly evident this year.

Sandhill Crane: All: 1 at Amana L. on 13 Mar (CE); 2 to 7 at Otter Creek M. on 17, 26 Mar and 18, 23 Apr (m.ob.); 1 at Forney L. on 31 Mar (SJD) and mid-May (Carl Priebe fide JJD); 1 at Tomahawk M. on 6 May (PE); 2 at Big M. on 10 May (MPr); and 3 at Goose L. in Clinton Co. on 11 May (PCP).

Black-bellied Plover: First: 2 on 7 May in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN). Last: 3 on 27 May at Riverton A. (THK). High counts: 28 on 19 May at Black Hawk L. (HZ) and 20 in Ringgold Co. on 18 May (THK, JLF).

American Golden-Plover: First: 10 on 13 Apr at Riverton A. (THK). Last and high count: 220 on 25 May in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Semipalmated Plover: First: 22 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. (AMJ). Last: 29 May in Palo Alto Co. (MCK). High count: 15 on 7 May at Sweet M. (MPr).

Piping Plover: The first of many sightings at Midwest Power Ponds was on 16 Apr (PHA/RIA). At Port Neal, the other regular location for this species, 6 were seen on 20 May (m.ob.).

Killdeer: High count: 1,000 on 12 Apr in Sioux and Lyon counties on the roads after a snow storm. The number is an estimate, but 341 were counted with a counter during the last third of the day.

American Avocet: All: 1 on 16 Apr and 3 on 17 Apr at Port Neal (BFH); 1 on 22 Apr at Twelve Mile L. in Union Co. (RTh); and 1 on 11 May at Engledinger M. in Polk Co. (PHA/RIA-photo).

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD, THK). Last: 24 May at Zirbel Sl. (THK, JLF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD, THK). High count: 94 at Colo Ponds on 15 Apr (HZ).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 30 Apr at Decorah (DeC). Last: 21 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). Few were reported.

Willet: First: 7 on 16 Apr at L. Anita (RTh). Last: 1 on 21 May at Black Hawk L. (m.ob.). From 1 to 3 were reported from 9 other locations.

Upland Sandpiper: First: 14 Apr at Ringgold W.A. (THK). Reports were from 5 other counties, but this species is usually under reported.

Whimbrel: All: 2 were n. of Bartlett in Mills Co. on 16 May (BKP/LJP-details), and 1 was in NC Hamilton Co. on 24 May (*THK, *JLF). Both sightings were of birds in flooded fields.

Long-billed Curlew: Peter Ernzen "cleaned up" after the spring I.O.U. meeting by finding this species at Black Hawk L. with Marbled Godwits (*PE) -- a well-deserved reward for hosting the meeting.

Hudsonian Godwit: First and high count: 40 at Riverton A. on 15 Apr (BKP/LJP, MTh, RTh). Last: 22 May in Dickinson Co. (ETh). From 1 to 9 were noted at 5 other locations.

Marbled Godwit: First: 7 on 13 Apr at Riverton A. (BKP/LJP, THK). Last: 8 on 31 May at Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP-details)[record latest]. High count: 19 at Blue L. on 21 Apr (PE). Other May dates include 1 to 6 birds at Black Hawk L. from 19 to 22 May and 2 in Palo Alto Co. on 20 May (MCK). These late May dates are quite unusual for this species.

Ruddy Turnstone: All: 5 at sod farm in Scott Co. on 11 May (DCD); 6 on 18 May in Ringgold Co. (THK, JLF), 2 from 19 to 21 May at Black Hawk L. (m.ob.); 2 on 20 May at Port Neal (m.ob.); and 6 on 27 May at Riverton A. (THK).

Sanderling: First: 6 May at Cardinal M. (DeC). Last: 29 May at Big M. (MPr). High count: 20 on 20 May at Black Hawk L. (THK).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: High count: 75 at Zirbel Sl. on 24 May (THK).

Western Sandpiper: All: 2 (alt. and partial alt.) on 22 Apr at Riverton A. (SJD-details)[3rd earliest]; 2 on 13 May at Zirbel Sl. (CRN-details); and 2 alt. on 20-21 May at Black Hawk L. (THK, JLF, RTh).

Least Sandpiper: First: 1 on 1 Apr at Riverton A. (THK). Last: 2 on 25 May at Cardinal M. (DeC). High count: 92 on 12 May at Cardinal M. (DeC).

White-rumped Sandpiper: First: 1 on 28 Apr at Blue L. (PE).

Baird's Sandpiper: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 2 on 31 May at Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP). High count: 30 on 26 Mar at Blue L. (BFH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First: 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD, THK). High count: 200 on 5 Apr at Cone M. (THK) and 8 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK).

Dunlin: First: 4 on 8 Apr in Polk Co. (PHA/RIA-details)[2nd earliest]. Last: 5 on 30 May at Black Hawk L. (RTh). High count: 71 on 22 May at Black Hawk L. (PE).

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 1 in basic plumage on 22 Apr at Riverton A. (SJD)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 24 May at Hickory Grove P. (MPr).

Ruff: A female discovered by Tim Schantz on 31 Mar at Riverton A. was seen by others on 1 Apr (*JLF, *WRS, *THK). Another was seen on 22 Apr 2 miles w. of Mt. Ayr in Ringgold Co. (*JSi).

Short-billed Dowitcher: First: 10 mostly in alt. plumage on 28 Apr in Clinton Co. (THK). Last: 22 May at Otter Creek M. (DLD).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 2 on 27 Mar at Blue L. (THK).

Common Snipe: High count: 150 on 5 Apr at Cone M. (THK). On 12 Apr, 70 were noted on roads in Sioux and Lyon counties after a snow storm (THK).

American Woodcock: First: 13 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD).

Wilson's Phalarope: First: 1 Apr at Riverton A. (THK)[3rd earliest]. High count: 10 at Riverton A. on 5 May (THK).

Red-necked Phalarope: All: 6 on 14 May s. of Collins in Story Co. (HZ), and 1 on 20-21 May at Black Hawk L. (m.ob.).

Laughing Gull: An adult found below the Saylorville Res. dam on 10 May by Gordon Brown was seen by others on 11 May (*PHA/RIA), *THK-photos).

Franklin's Gull: First: 27 Mar at Saylorville Res. (SJD) and L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Last and high count: 210 on 31 May at Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 21 Mar at Big Creek L. (SJD). Last: 28 May in Dickinson Co. (LAS). High count: 114 on 8 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Ring-billed Gull: High counts: 5,000 on 8 Apr at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 4,000 on 14 Mar at Sabula (DCD), and 3,000 on 11 Apr at the Dickinson Co. landfill (SJD).

Herring Gull: Last: 2 imm. on 28 May in Dickinson Co (LAS).

Caspian Tern: First: 4 on 13 May at Davenport (DCD). High count: 74 on 16 May at Elm L. (SJD). Many were seen at widely scattered locations in the last half of May.

Common Tern: All (including details): 6 May at Lost Island L. (LAS); 15 May at Saylorville Res. (SJD); 16 May at Morse L. in Wright Co. (SJD); 20 May at Black Hawk L. (LAS); 23 May at Trumbull L. (THK, JLF); and 28 May at Ventura M. (CRN).

Forster's Tern: First: 7 Apr at Red Rock Res. (LAS)[ties record earliest]. High count: 30 on 23 May at Trumbull L. (THK).

Least Tern: All: 2 on 27 May and 4 on 29 May at Midwest Power Ponds (THK, BKP/LJP); and 1 on 28 May at Ventura M. (CRN).

Black Tern: First: 2 on 29 Apr at L. Sugema in Van Buren Co. (AMJ, DCD)[ties 2nd earliest]. High count: 450 on 14 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). From 14 to 23 May, large numbers of Black Terns were present on most marshes and large bodies of water as reported by many observers and seen by me. I cannot remember seeing this many in the past.

Black-billed Cuckoo: The only report was on 14 May at Coralville Res. (DLD).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: First: 13 May at Holst F. (PHA/RIA). Only 2 others were reported.

Barn Owl: 3 nests were present at the Zelbert Freemyer farm e. of Bedford in Taylor Co. On 18 May, 8 young were in one nest and 8 eggs in another (JLF). The third nest was found later.

Long-eared Owl: All: 2 on 4 Mar in N Marshall Co. (MPr); 1 on 30 Mar in Cherokee Co. (DBi), and 1 on 28 Apr in Liscomb (MPr).

Short-eared Owl: A nest with 9 eggs was found on 12 May at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). Other late birds that could be nesting were in Palo Alto Co. on 6 May (LAS) and Coralville Res. on 28 Apr (THK).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 was still in N Marshall Co. on 4 Mar (MPr).

Common Nighthawk: First: 9 May at Fairfield (DCP) and Moorehead P. (PE).

Chuck-will's-widow: All: 11 May e. of Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP); 12, 18 May near Waubonsie S.P. (SJD, THK, JLF); and 13 May at Big Sand Mound Preserve (PCP).

Chimney Swift: First: 14 Apr at Fairfield (DCP) and Lamoni (THK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: First: 29 Apr at Croton U. (CE).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 40 were noted at Rathbun Res. on 16 Apr (RLC).

Northern Flicker: 32 were migrating in NW Iowa on 27 Mar (THK).

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 on 13 May at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (M. Olson fide LAS) were a long way from the usual range. More easterly reports were from Marshall and Bremer counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 8 May at Kettleston Hogsback A. (ETH). Last: 29 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: First: 8 May at Fairfield (DCP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First: 11 May at Coralville Res. (THK). Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 40 on 28 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Acadian Flycatcher: First: 9 May at Croton Unit (JLF). Other locations were Wildcat Den S.P. (CE), Maquoketa Caves (CE), Preparation Canyon (JSi), n. of Stone City (CE), and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (CE).

Alder Flycatcher: First: 13 May at Amana Woods (JLF)[ties 3rd earliest]. Last: 29 May at Big M. (MPr).

Least Flycatcher: First: 6 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 100 on 28 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). Others reported seeing more small flycatchers than usual, especially in late May.

Eastern Phoebe: First: 15 Mar at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP)[ties record earliest].

Great Crested Flycatcher: First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE).

Western Kingbird: First: 10 May at Kettleston Hogsback A. (DCH). The most easterly records were from Boone Co. on 21 May (SRL), Ventura M. on 28 May (CRN), and the state capitol grounds, where nest building was observed on 29 May (PHA/RIA).

Eastern Kingbird: First: 27 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. (JLF).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 was reported on 6 May at Blue Wing M. in Palo Alto Co. (M. Olson fide LAS).

Purple Martin: First: 6 Apr at Lake City (DS).

Tree Swallow: First: 2 on 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD)[ties 3rd earliest].

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: First: 2 on 8 Apr at Colyn W.A. in Lucas Co. (SJD).

Bank Swallow: First: 16 Apr at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK).

Cliff Swallow: First: 16 Apr at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK)[record earliest].

Barn Swallow: First: 12 Apr w. of Boone (SJD).

Blue Jay: 5 flocks were migrating in Lyon Co. on 6 May (JSi).

American Crow: At Ames, the roost numbers were down to 150 by 7 Apr. (JJD).

Fish Crow: 4 were seen and heard at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. on 21 Apr (*THK) and also heard on 22 Apr (*AMJ) and 26 Apr (*JLF). The Records Committee will review this record and two previous ones from Louisa Co.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: All: 3 on 8 Apr at Yellow River F. (CE), 1 on 28 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF), and 1 on 11, 13 May at Holst F. (Gordon Brown fide SJD, PHA/RIA).

Brown Creeper: Last: 2 May in Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Carolina Wren: 1 near Plymouth in Cerro Gordo Co. on 6 May (CRN) was the most out on range.

Bewick's Wren: All: 2 were near Croton Unit in Lee Co. on 23 Apr (THK, RIC), and a nest was in a farm building in SE Iowa Co. on 29 Apr (JLF). *pnts*

House Wren: First: 19 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Winter Wren: Last: 2 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). High count: 6 on 28 Mar, 15 Apr at Croton Unit (RIC, CE).

Sedge Wren: First: 4 on 26 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. (JLF)[ties 3rd earliest].

Marsh Wren: First: 2 on 22 Apr at Mark Twain N.W.R. in Louisa Co. (AMJ).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: High count: 24 on 9 Apr at L. Macbride (DLD).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 28 Mar at Geode S.P. (SJD). High count: 30 on 23 Apr in Lee and Van Buren counties (THK).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: First: 15 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ). High count: 23 on 13 May in Allamakee Co. (FL).

Eastern Bluebird: Dick Bierman had 93 in nest boxes in Cherokee Co. on 30 May.

Mountain Bluebird: 2 males were at Kattleson Hogsback A. on 24 Mar (*ETH).

Townsend's Solitaire: 1 was found at L. Anita on 18 Mar (*MTh, *ETH) and was last seen on 20 Mar (THK, RIC).

Veery: First: 10 May at Grammer Grove (MPr) and Mason City (RGo).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: First: 7 May at Cedar Bend P. in Bremer Co. (MPr).

Swainson's Thrush: First: 3 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). High count: 60 on 22 May at Rock River Access in Sioux Co. (THK). This species was found at almost every location that I visited in late May (THK).

Hermit Thrush: First: 3 Apr at Mason City (RGo). Last: 11 May at Peterson Pits in Story Co. (*MPr)[2nd latest]. Others were seen in early May with the latest on 4 May at Coralville Res. (JLF, THK) and on 5 May at Gammer Grove (W.A.) (BPr). High counts: 25 on 26 Apr at Moorehead P. (PE) and 20 on 27 Apr at Hickory Hill P. (THK). The peak migration was late this year and the reports from May were unusual.

Wood Thrush: First: 6 May at Shimek F. in Lee Co. (MPr).

American Robin: 3,000 were on the roads on 12 Apr in Sioux and Lyon counties after a snow storm (THK).

Varied Thrush: The bird first seen at Wellman in Washington Co. on 18 Jan (AJY) was last seen on 8 Mar (Eury and Barbara Henderson fide AJY).

Gray Catbird: First: 4 May at Grammer Grove (MPr).

Northern Mockingbird: Birds were reported from Appanoose, Johnson, and Muscatine counties.

Brown Thrasher: First: 28 Mar at Willow Sl. (THK).

American Pipit: First: 2 on 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD). Last: 4 on 23 Apr in SE Johnson Co. (DLD). High count: 25 on 16 Apr in Clay Co. (LAS).

Northern Shrike: All: 3 Mar at L. Anita (THK), and 24 Mar in Emmet Co. (DHe).

Loggerhead Shrike: A nest with 4 eggs was found in NW Cass Co. on 31 May (MAP).

White-eyed Vireo: First: 24 Apr at Croton Unit (THK, RIC). The only other location reported was Huron Is. in Des Moines Co. on 16 May (PCP).

Bell's Vireo: 1 at Cardinal M. on 24 May was considered unusual (DeC).

Solitary Vireo: First: 15 Apr in NW Cass Co. (MAP). Last: 30 May near Spencer (THK), at Algona (MCK), and at Des Moines (BE)[all 2nd latest]. Birds were reported at 8 locations between 23 and 30

May, which is unusual for this early migrant. The early date was separated by 3 weeks from the next report.

Yellow-throated Vireo: First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE).

Warbling Vireo: First: 29 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 10 May at Mason City (CJF). Last: 27 May n. of Iowa City (JLF). High count: 6 on 17 May at Grammer Grove (MPr).

Red-eyed Vireo: First: 6 May at Shimek F. (MPr) and Fairfield (DCP). High count: 80 on 28 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK).

Blue-winged Warbler: First: 6 on 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE). A Lawrence's hybrid was near Cedar Bluff in Cedar Co. on 13 May (*CAT).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 9 May at Mason City (RGo, CRN). Last: 20 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 5 on 14 May at Dudgeon L. (CE).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 4 May at Waubonsie S.P. (SJD). Last: 31 May n. of Iowa City (JLF). High count: 30 on 23 May at Trumbull L. (THK).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 15 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ-details)[ties record earliest]. Last: 21 May at Tomahawk M. (JLF)[3rd latest]. High count: 10 on 9 May at Moorehead P. (PE).

Nashville Warbler: First: 3 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last: 28 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 10 on 13 May in Appanoose (RLC) and Cerro Gordo (CRN) counties.

Northern Parula: First: 23 Apr at Croton Unit (THK).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: High count: 16 on 13 May at Hanging Rock Woods in Johnson Co. (CE).

Magnolia Warbler: Last: 30 May near Spencer (THK). High count: 10 on 10 May at Coralville Res. (CE).

Cape May Warbler: First: 5 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last: 20 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 9 on 11 May in Scott and Muscatine counties (PCP). There were reports from 15 locations, which is more than usual.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 6 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon Brown fide SJD)[ties record earliest]; 8 May at Spirit Lake (ETh); 10 May at Mason City (CJF); 11 May at Coon Creek A. in Winneshiek Co. (DeC); and 14 May at Coralville Res. (DLD).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 5 Apr near Cone M. (THK). Last: 23 May at Trumbull L. (THK). High count: 300 on 6 May at Huston P. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS).

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 27 Apr at Iowa City (THK, JLF). High count: 7 on 13 May at Hanging Rock Woods (CE).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 9 May at Pine L. (MPr). Last: 28 May at A. A. Call S.P. (MCK). High count: 8 on 14 May at Ledges S.P. (SJD).

Yellow-throated Warbler: First: 23 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (THK). Other locations for this species were Ledges S. P. on 11 May (MPr), below the dam at Saylorville Res. on 13 May (BE), Mark Twain N.W.R in Louisa Co. on 16 May (CE), and W Lee Co. on 29 May (CE).

Pine Warbler: All: 27 Apr at Iowa City (THK); 27 Apr at Davenport (PCP); 29 Apr at Carroll (RTh); 30 Apr at Swede Point P. in Boone Co. (Gordon Brown fide SJD); 30 Apr at Davenport (PCP); 4 May at Coralville Res. (JLF, THK); 11 May at Moorehead P. (PE); and 13 May at Amana Woods (JLF, THK).

Prairie Warbler: 1 was out of range and early in NW Carroll Co. on 30 Apr (*MTh, RTh)[record earliest]. The only other report was from L. Macbride on 17 May (CE, THK, JLF).

Palm Warbler: First: 20 Apr at Diamond L. (MPr)[ties 2nd earliest]. Last: 15 May in Warren Co. (JSi). High count: 40 on 6 May at Dudgeon L. (CE).

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 2 on 10 May at Coralville Res. (CE). Last: 1 on 23 May at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). High count: 6 on 13 May at Amana Woods (JLF).

Blackpoll Warbler: First: 3 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last: 30 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 16 on 13 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Cerulean Warbler: First: 3 on 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE). Northern and westerly birds were at Mason City on 9 and 28 May (CRN, RGo), Swan L. in Carroll Co. on 9 May (MTh, RTh), and Moorehead P. on 14, 15, 20 May (PE).

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 2 May at Grammer Grove (BPr).

American Redstart: High count: 19 on 10 May at Decorah (DeC).

Prothonotary Warbler: First: 7 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DCP).

Worm-eating Warbler: First: 2 on 29 Apr at Croton Unit (RIC, CE). Other locations were Klum L. in Louisa Co. on 13 May (PCP), Hanging Rock Woods in Johnson Co. on 13 May (CE), Saylorville Res. on 13 May (BE), and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 29 May (CE).

Ovenbird: First: 23 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (THK). High count: 25 on 15 May at Mid-Prairie P. in Carroll Co. (RTh). Doug Harr noted many more than usual in northwestern Iowa.

Northern Waterthrush: First: 2 May at Pine L. (MPr). High count: 20 on 10 May at Black Hawk W.A. in Sac Co. (RTh).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First: 6 Apr at Ledges S.P. (SJD). Birds away from the usual eastern and central locations included 2 in Stephen's F. in Lucas Co. on 8 Apr (SJD), 1 n. of Thurman in Fremont Co. on 5 May (SJD), 1 at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. on 13 May (BFH), and 1 at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. on 13 May (PE).

Kentucky Warbler: First: 6 May at Shimek F. (MPr).

Connecticut Warbler: First: 11 May at Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP). Last: 29 May at Big M. (MPr) and Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS). Single birds were found at 8 locations.

Mourning Warbler: First: 13 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last and high count: 16 on 29 May in O'Brien and Clay counties (LAS).

Common Yellowthroat: First: 29 Apr at Hickory Hill P. (THK).

Hooded Warbler: All: 24 Apr to 9 May at Croton Unit (m.ob.); 5 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF); 13 May at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC, FL); and 29 May at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. (LAS). The latter was far out of the normal range.

Wilson's Warbler: First: 10 May at Grammer Grove (MPr). Last: 31 May at Liscomb (MPr)[2nd latest]. Also late, 30 May near Spencer (THK)[ties 3rd latest]. There were 5 other reports from 25 May or later.

Canada Warbler: First: 13 May at Hanging Rock Woods (CE). Last: 30 May at Moorehead P. (PE). High count: 6 on 29 May at Trumbull L. (LAS).

Yellow-breasted Chat: All: 19 Apr at a bird bath in Lake City in Calhoun Co. (DS-details)[record earliest by 9 days]; 10 May at Black Hawk W.A. in Sac Co. (RTh); 12 May at Cone M. (THK); 13 May at Buena Vista A. in Scott Co. (DCD); and 29 May in W Lee Co. (CE).

Summer Tanager: All: 6 to 29 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC, m.ob.); and a female on 11 May at Big Sand Mounds Preserve in Louisa Co. (PCP).

Scarlet Tanager: First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit. (CE). In the north and west, migrants were noted in Carroll, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, and Sioux counties.

Northern Cardinal: Several pairs remain in Sioux Center (JV).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First: 29 Apr at Croton Unit (CE).

Blue Grosbeak: All reports were from usual western Iowa locations except for 1 w. of Buffalo in Scott Co. (fide PCP).

Lazuli Bunting: Russ and Ellen Heine discovered a male in the yard of their rural farmstead sw. of Spencer on 28 May and it was seen by a number of observers through 29 May (*LAS, *HWW).

Indigo Bunting: First: 2 May at Croton Unit (MPr).

Rufous-sided Towhee: Birds of the spotted race were found in Fremont Co. at Riverton A. on 19 Mar (RIC, THK) and n. of Thurman on 4 May (SJD). Otherwise, the first was at Fairfield on 7 Apr (DCP).

American Tree Sparrow: Last: 1 singing at Muskrat Sl. on 28 Apr (THK), and 1 seen on 29 Apr at Cone M. (THK). High count: 2,000 on 12 Apr on the roads in Sioux and Lyon counties (THK).

Clay-colored Sparrow: First: 29 Apr at a feeder in Mason City (RGo). A bird singing at L. Pahoja on 22 May could be nesting (JLF, THK). The only reports from eastern and central Iowa were from Butler, Cerro Gordo, and Story counties.

Field Sparrow: First: 29 Mar at Cone M. (THK).

Vesper Sparrow: First: 29 Mar in Johnson Co. (THK). High count: 100 (or more) on 12 Apr on roads in Sioux and Lyon counties after snow storm (THK).

Lark Sparrow: First: 19 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ).

Savannah Sparrow: First: 2 on 18 Mar at Riverton A. (SJD).

Grasshopper Sparrow: First: 30 Apr in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Henslow's Sparrow: The only reports were from the usual location near Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., with the first on 23 Apr (RIC, THK).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 1 on 1 Apr at Secret L. in Fremont Co. was found by Tim Schantz (THK). Another was at Errington M. in Story Co. on 4 Apr (SJD). Last: 1 on 23 May at Stateline M. in Kossuth Co. (JLF, THK)[record latest]. Could this species nest in Iowa?

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: All: 20 May at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH, LAS, MPr); and 21, 24 May at Tomahawk M. (THK, RTh, PE).

Fox Sparrow: First: 14 Mar at Fairfield (DCP) and Allamakee Co. (FL). Last: 21 Apr at Sioux Center (JV).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Last: 30 May at Russ and Ellen Heine's farmstead sw. of Spencer (THK)[ties 2nd latest].

Swamp Sparrow: High count: 20 on 27 Apr at Hickory Hill P. (THK).

White-throated Sparrow: Last: 24 May in Polk Co. (MPr). High count: 150 on 30 Apr at Coralville Res. (THK).

White-crowned Sparrow: High count: 40 on 29 Mar at Cone M. (THK). Many more than usual were seen at multiple locations in eastern Iowa (THK).

Harris's Sparrow: Last: 22 May at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. (THK). High count: 15 at Riverton A. on 19 Mar (THK). In eastern Iowa, birds were seen at Coralville Res. on 11, 14 May (THK, DLD) and Winneshiek Co. on 14 May (DeC).

Dark-eyed Junco: Last: 15 May at Des Moines (SJD). Other May sightings were at L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. on 2 May (DeC) and Cone M. on 3 May (THK).

Lapland Longspur: First: 2 on 2 Mar in Emmet Co. (DHe). Last: 50 on 15 Apr in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN). High count: 2,000 on 12 Apr in Sioux and Lyon counties along roadsides after snow storm. (THK)

Smith's Longspur: First: 2 on 7 Mar in Polk Co. (Gordon Brown fide SJD). Other reports were of 30 on 5 Apr in SE Johnson Co. (THK) and 20-50 near Cone M. in Louisa Co. on 6, 7 Apr (PCP, JLF, THK).

Chestnut-collared Longspur: 1 was in extreme NW Sioux Co., on 12 Apr (*THK-photo) and another was n. of Larchwood in Lyon Co. on the same day (*THK). These birds were found following a snow storm along paved roads where the snow had melted.

Snow Bunting: Last: 8 on 7 Mar in Hardin Co. (MPr). High counts: on 5 Mar, 300 in Emmet Co. (DHe) and 75 in Clay Co. (LAS).

Bobolink: First: 4 on 6 May in Van Buren Co. (RLC).

Eastern Meadowlark: First: 6 in Appanoose Co. on 11 Mar (RLC). How do we know when Eastern Meadowlarks first arrive?

Yellow-headed Blackbird: First: 1 on 2 Apr at Blue L. (THK).

Rusty Blackbird: First: 6 on 15 Mar at Hendrickson M. (MPr). Last: 1 on 25 Apr at Blue L. (THK). High count: 115 on 6 Apr in NE Boone Co. (SJD).

Brewer's Blackbird: All: 10 on 2, 18 Apr e. of Yale (THK); and 1 female on 22 Apr in Clay Co. (LAS, HWW).

Great-tailed Grackle: First: 18 Mar at Blue L. (PE). The numerous reports were from the following counties: Boone, Clay, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Humboldt, Marshall, Monona, Plymouth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Sac, Story, and Tama. The highest concentration was at Finn Pond in Greene Co. with 17 males and 6 females on 16 May and 10 females carrying food on 19 May (JJD). It seems fair to say that this species is well established in Iowa and moving eastward.

Orchard Oriole: There were reports from 7 counties, which greatly underestimates the occurrence of this species.

Northern Oriole: First: 29 Apr in Lee Co. (CE).

Pine Grosbeak: The 2 winter birds at Spencer were observed on 2 Mar (*JLF, *THK-photo) and were last seen on 8 Mar (LAS).

Purple Finch: 5 singles reported by active observers and none by others is testimony to the scarcity of this species this year.

House Finch: Birds fledged from an Iowa City nest on 17 May (RJH). Few reports were received for this species which is now widespread in both urban and rural localities.

Pine Siskin: Last and high count: 4 on 30 May in Cherokee (DBi). The only other reports were from Cass, Johnson, Sioux, and Woodbury counties.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: 2 on 13 May 5 miles ne. of Oakville in Louisa Co. push the range of this species one county north (PCP).

COMMENT

This spring was interesting for its varied and generally cool weather with concentrations of birds at different locations and times. I received a record amount of data (1,868 entries into a computer database) from 44 contributors and 7 additional documenters. There were 43 documentations of 22 species. I greatly appreciate the promptness of the contributions -- I was able to enter all of the data by 6 June.

Northwestern Iowa stood out this year because of the increased number of reporters (Welcome to the three Thelen brothers -- Ed, Marty, and Rob), the extensive coverage at the I.O.U. spring meeting on 19 to 21 May, and the number of rare birds that were found (e.g., Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Pine Grosbeak).

This report is based on the data received. The initials after each record refer to the report that cited the record. Most of the active birders in Iowa regularly send in reports, but some do so irregularly or not at all. Thus, some good sightings do not make it into the historical record. I would challenge those who do not report their findings for one reason or another to look through this spring report and see what they could add to it. It is never too late to send additional information. For those who would like to report, but just never seem to get around to it, I would suggest that they start keeping a running list after each field trip of their most interesting sightings and send that list in by the reporting date as shown on the back of the journal. It is surprising how often what seems to be mundane data turns out to be significant because it is a n early or late date or high count, or just adds weight to the body of evidence.

In addition to encouraging as much reporting as possible, I have the job of evaluating the data. There are always some records that I cannot decide whether to include or not. This is an honest reaction, usually due to lack of enough information and directed toward the bird, not the person who reported it. Most of the birds seen at unusual dates are adequately substantiated, but a few are not. I have decided to try requesting additional details and confirmation of unusual dates. In the past I have found that dates may be off by a month -- an easy mistake to make. Observers should indicate that they are aware of birds seen at unusual dates and provide sufficient information about the circumstances and description of the bird to be convincing to someone else. Of the five birds that I requested additional information about, I received very useful information about two, found out that one was a date entry error, and did not get a reply about two.

This summer I will update my list of early and late dates for regular and casual species. I would be happy to send it to anyone upon request. A self-address letter-sized (9.5 inches) envelope and four stamps (loose) to cover the cost of postage and copying would be appreciated.

I have continued the format used in the Fall 1994 report (i.e., first, last, high count). I heard no comments about the format. Does that mean good, bad, or indifferent? Missing data usually means that the data was not available or was likely to be misleading because few were reported. At least two name changes should be noted. Midwest Power Ponds replaces IPL Ponds in Pottawattamie County, and Port Neal is used to refer to the settling ponds at the power plant in Woodbury County and nearby areas. When the number of birds is not given, 1 is implied.

REPORTS RECEIVED (* = documentation only)

Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Dick Bierman (DBi), Cherokee; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Ceder Rapids; Jeff Dankert (JDa), La Crosse, WI; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Dan C. Dorrance (DCD), Davenport; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita A. Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Richard J. Hollis (RJH), Iowa City; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Sharron R. Laub (SRL), Rippey; Fred Leshner (FL), La Crosse, WI; *Steven Matherly (SM), TX; *James P. Mattsson

(JPM), Quincy, IL; Curt R. Nelson (CRN), Mason City; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; *John Paulin (JP), Ames; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; *Jim Quinlivan (JQ), Wapello; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; *W. Ross Silcock (WRS), Tabor; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; *Carol A. Thompson (CAT), Iowa City; Dale Stone (DS), Lake City; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; Marty Thelen (MTh), Carroll; Rob Thelen (RTh), Carroll; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Harold W. White (HWW), Estherville; *Russell R. Widner (RRW), Marshalltown; Albion J. Young (AJY), Wellman; and Hank Zaletel, (HZ), Colo.